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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

PHAM, MINH CHAU THI

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1724

DATE MAILED: 09/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/811,120

Applicant(s)

NICHOLAS ET AL.

Examiner

Minh-Chau T. Pham

Art Unit

1724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/4/05.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

Specification

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because legal phraseology "comprises" is used in the abstract. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

The use of the trademark PURAFIL ®, PK-12, PK-18 and MEDIAPAK ® (page 1, lines 24-25, TEFLON ® (page 11, line 21 and page 13, line 3) have been noted in this application. It should be capitalized wherever it appears and be accompanied by the generic terminology.

Although the use of trademarks is permissible in patent applications, the proprietary nature of the marks should be respected and every effort made to prevent their use in any manner which might adversely affect their validity as trademarks.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to

consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1-4, 7-15, 17-22 and 24-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shindo et al (6,210,458 B1), in view of Hammes (6,001,145).

Shindo et al disclose an apparatus for mounting to an air circulation system comprising a housing (1) with a filter element (6) located inside the housing (1) with an inlet (3) and an outlet (4) and the filter element (6) being sealed (91 and 92 in Fig. 13) between the portion of the housing (1) and portion of the air filter (6) (see col. 2, line 55 through col. 3, line 19). Claims 1-4, 7-15, 17-22 and 24-27 differ from the disclosure of Shindo et al in that the apparatus having a notch associated with the housing. Hammes discloses an apparatus for mounting to an air circulation system having a notch (40) associated with the housing (33) wherein the notch (40) comprises a contact surface for mounting (see 36 in Figs. 4 & 5, col. 6, line 60 through col. 7, line 65). Hammes further discloses a groove or notch (49) in cooperation with the level arms (35, 26) at a parallel upward angle when the filter module is engaged with the frame (see details of Fig. 11, col. 8, line 55 –68). Hammes also discloses a gripping device associated with the apparatus (see unlabeled part on top of item 13 in Fig. 7). Hammes also discloses a method of mounting an air circulation component (6) to an air circulation system (1) comprising the steps of providing a notch (49 in Fig. 11) associated with an air circulation component wherein the notch comprises a contact surface (46), providing a guide (50) associated with the air circulation system, positioning the air circulation component such that a portion of the contact surface is adjacent the load surface with a

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contact angle (see details of Fig. 11) and a sealing pressure against a portion of the air circulation system (30 in Fig. 4). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a notch and guide as taught by Hammes in the filtering apparatus of Shindo et al so that the air circulation component can be snugly fit into the air circulation system to promote high filtration efficiency and to prevent air bypassing.

Claims 5, 6, 16 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shindo et al (6,210,458 B1), in view of Hammes (6,001,145), as applied supra, and further in view of Marchart et al (6,881,238 B2).

Claims 5, 6, 16 and 23 call for microbumps adapted to be in contact with a portion of the contact surface. Marchart et al disclose microbump (10 in Figs. 1-3) wherein the microbump (10) is in contact with a portion of the contact surface (11, 14). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide microbumps as taught by Marchart et al in the apparatus of Shindo et al and Hammes to facilitate efficient sealing of the raw air space relative to the clean air space of the apparatus.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Minh-Chau T. Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-1163. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon/Tues/Thur/Fri 7:00 am - 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on (571) 272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Minh-Chau Pham
Patent Examiner
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September 9, 2005